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Agenda item 20 (c)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Canada, Czech Republic, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan: draft resolution

Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 45/190 of 21 December 1990, 46/150 of 18 December 1991, 47/165 of 18 December 1992, 48/206 of 21 December 1993, 50/134 of 20 December 1995 and 52/172 of 16 December 1997, and taking note of the decisions adopted by the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system in the implementation of those resolutions,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1990/50 of 13 July 1990, 1991/51 of 26 July 1991 and 1992/38 of 30 July 1992 and Council decision 1993/232 of 22 July 1993,

Noting with appreciation the contribution made by States and by organizations of the United Nations system to the development of cooperation to mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and the activities of regional and other organizations, in particular the Commission of the European Communities, as well as bilateral activities and those of non-governmental organizations,

Welcoming the commitments made by Member States in the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[1] to intensify cooperation, *inter alia*, in the prevention and reduction of major technological and other disasters with an adverse impact on the environment and in disaster relief and post-disaster rehabilitation in order to enhance the

[1] Resolution S-19/2, annex

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capabilities of affected countries to cope with such situations, as well as commitments made in response to the appeal of the Secretary-General on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident,

Conscious of the long-term nature of the consequences of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, which was a major technological catastrophe in terms of its scope and created humanitarian, environmental, social, economic and health consequences and problems of common concern, requiring for their solution wide and active international cooperation and coordination of efforts in this field at the international and national levels,

Expressing profound concern about newly emerged signs of the effects on the lives and health of people, in particular children, in the affected areas of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, as well as in other countries affected by the Chernobyl disaster,

Taking into consideration the findings and outcome of the visit of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator to the affected areas in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine in October 1998,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/172,[2]

Noting the readiness of Ukraine in principle to close the Chernobyl nuclear power plant by 2000, bearing in mind the need for adequate support from relevant countries and international organizations for that purpose,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in the implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions and, through existing coordination mechanisms, in particular the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl, to continue to maintain close cooperation with the agencies of the United Nations system, as well as with regional and other relevant organizations, with a view to encouraging the regular exchange of information, cooperation and coordination of multilateral and bilateral efforts in those areas, while implementing programmes and specific projects, *inter alia*, in the framework of relevant agreements and arrangements;

2. *Invites* States, in particular donor States, relevant multilateral financial institutions and other concerned parties of the international community, including non-governmental organizations, to continue to provide support to the ongoing efforts made by Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster;

3. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the United Nations, in cooperation with the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, to promote the inter-agency programme of international assistance to areas affected by the Chernobyl disaster;

4. *Welcomes also* the convening by the United Nations of a number of special international meetings on Chernobyl to generate further support to the populations of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine affected by the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster, and urges the international community and the Governments of the affected countries to continue to contribute towards the implementation of the projects specified in the above-mentioned inter-agency programme;

5. *Underlines* the necessity of paying special attention to the United Nations Appeal for International Cooperation on Chernobyl of May 1999 which includes nine of the most acute projects of the inter-agency programme, in particular the establishment of children's rehabilitation centres, screening of children for early diagnostics of thyroid pathology,

[2] A/54/449

development of measures to reduce the risk of adverse health effects in the population in the most affected regions;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* for the contributions made to the shelter implementation plan aimed at securing the environmental safety of the sarcophagus covering the remains of the destroyed Chernobyl reactor, and urges further contributions to the plan;

7. *Welcomes* the decision of the heads of State and Government of the seven major industrial States, adopted at Cologne, Germany, in June 1999, to ensure the continued financing and the progress of work carried out under the shelter implementation plan;

8. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the activities of the International Chernobyl Centre established in Ukraine, with the active participation of Belarus and the Russian Federation, as an important contribution towards enhancement of the capabilities of the international community to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of such accidents, and invites all interested parties to take part in the activities of the Centre;

9. *Urges* the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl to continue his efforts aimed at strengthening international cooperation to overcome the health, social, economic and ecological consequences of the Chernobyl disaster in the most affected areas of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, based on the inter-agency programme of international assistance to areas affected by the Chernobyl disaster;

10. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue the regular exchange of information with the countries concerned, relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, with a view to enhancing world public awareness of the consequences of such disasters;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, under a separate sub-item, a report on the implementation of the present resolution.